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PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Report by the Director-General

Summary

Reviews the preparatory activities for the forthcoming session of the Conference and draws the attention of the Board to the documentation and other requirements for the Conference.

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Introduction

1. The General Conference of UNIDO is the principal organ of the Organization, consisting of representatives of all Members (Articles 7.1 and 8.1 of the Constitution).

2. The main functions of the Conference are stipulated in Article 8.3 of the Constitution. In particular, the Conference should determine the guiding principles and the policies of the Organization.

3. Unless it decides otherwise, the Conference is to hold a regular session every two years, at the seat of the Organization (Article 8.2). The last regular session (fourth) of the Conference was held in Vienna from 18 to 22 November 1991.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Date and place of the Conference

4. At its fourth session, in decision GC.4/Dec.25, the General Conference decided that its fifth session should be held from 6 to 10 December 1993.

5. In resolution GC.4/Res.30, the Conference took note with appreciation of the kind offer of the Republic of Cameroon to UNIDO to host the fifth session at Yaoundé in 1993, and requested the Director-General to undertake the necessary consultations with the Government of the Republic of Cameroon for detailed arrangements for holding the fifth session of the Conference at Yaoundé and to submit a report on the result of those consultations to the Board for decision. The Board at its ninth session decided to accept the offer of the Government of Cameroon and requested the Director-General to negotiate and to sign the necessary agreement with the Government of Cameroon (IDB.9/Dec.16). At its tenth session, the Board took note of the information provided in document IDB.10/31 on the signing of the agreement between UNIDO and the Government of Cameroon concerning the venue of the fifth session of the General Conference (IDB.10/SR.8, paras. 78-79).

Budgetary matters

6. The resources available for the holding of the fifth session of the Conference, as provided for in the programme and budgets of UNIDO, 1992-1993 (GC.4/42), total $626,500.

7. The budget of the Conference is based on the following assumptions:

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(a) The fifth session will last five working days providing for 10 plenary meetings, five main committee meetings and five geographical group meetings;

(b) Interpretation for plenary and main committee meetings and documentation will be provided in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish);

(c) Summary records which will be provided for plenary meetings as well as meetings of the main committee will be issued in English only during the session and the other five languages will be issued as soon as possible after the session;

(d) The venue of the session would be in Vienna; any additional costs involved in the event of the holding of the Conference at another site would be met by the host Government.

Agenda

8. In accordance with Article 9.4 (g) of the Constitution, the Board prepares the provisional agenda for each session of the General Conference.

9. Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Conference provides guidelines for the contents of the provisional agenda of a regular session of the Conference. Furthermore, in accordance with rule 12 of those rules of procedure, the Board shall prepare that provisional agenda on the basis of a list of items, submitted to it by the Director-General, together with annotations indicating briefly the history of each item, the proposed documentation, the substance of the matter to be discussed and any earlier relevant decisions by the Conference or other organs of the Organization.

10. At its fourth session the Conference adopted resolution GC.4/Res.26 on streamlining the work of the policy-making organs, in which it recommended to the Board "to set up the agenda of the fifth session of the Conference to correspond to the five medium-term priority problem areas, the three thematic programmes and the regional dimension, taking into account the policy directives by major categories of programme instruments, and this, with the aim that the outcome of its deliberations take the form of a single text covering the above-mentioned". The Conference also recommended to the Board that it examine ways and means of achieving the implementation of that recommendation.

11. Following that recommendation and on the basis of proposals submitted by the Secretariat, the Board at its tenth session adopted the tentative provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Conference contained in Board decision IDB.10/Dec.19 with the understanding that it would be reviewed by the Board at its eleventh session. Annotations to the items in the tentative provisional agenda and proposals for the documentation to be submitted under each item are provided in the annex to the present document. The Board may also wish to include a new sub-item 9 (a)(iii) as indicated in the annex.

Documentation

12. In accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, documents required for consideration of items on the provisional agenda shall be distributed by the Director-General in all languages of the Conference to all recipients of the provisional agenda, as far as possible at the same time as the provisional agenda (ninety days before the opening date) and in any event not later than forty-five days before the opening date of a regular session. As mentioned in paragraph 11 above, the annex to the present document provides, under each of the items of the tentative provisional agenda, an indication of the pre-session documentation required for the Conference. The documents mentioned in paragraph 18 (d) below have also been referred to in the annex.

13. In its resolution GC.4/Res.26, the Conference decided, on a trial basis, that reporting on selected programme and policy issues, under consideration by the policy-making organs, would be integrated in a consolidated report of the Director-General to be updated and to be distributed in chapters as soon as ready. The Conference also recommended to the Board to examine ways and means of achieving the implementation of that decision in its work. In an attempt to comply with resolution GC.4/Res.26, for the current session of the Board, progress reports on 17 different subjects have been presented as chapters of one single document (IDB.11/11) which updates and supplements the 1992 Annual Report. The document has also been given a Conference symbol (GC.5/10) in the hope that parts of it could be used for the Conference, thus obviating the need for additional documentation.

II. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

Organization of the work of the Conference

14. In view of the short duration of the Conference, the organization of its work is of paramount importance. The Board may therefore wish to consider this question as soon as the provisional agenda has been finalized. In planning the schedule of work, as in the past, account should be taken of the time required at the plenary for the general debate and for possible voting on some items. With this in mind, in previous sessions, a maximum length of seven minutes was suggested for statements of delegations in the general debate (cf. GC.4/CRP.8, section D, item 4; GC.4/SR.1, para. 77).

15. It will be recalled that, at its previous sessions, the Conference established a main committee to which it allocated a number of agenda items. The Board may wish to recommend to the Conference a similar procedure for its fifth session, keeping in mind that the possibility of creating additional committees is constrained by the limited resources available (see para. 7 above). Concerning the organization of the debates, following the pattern of previous sessions, all items would be taken up in plenary, with the substantive items (i.e. 7 to 15 of the tentative provisional agenda) being considered in the form of a general debate. Items 7 to 15 would also be referred to the main committee for a more focused debate aimed at the preparation of consensus draft decisions and resolutions for submission to the plenary.

16. The work of the previous sessions of the Conference was also greatly facilitated by the

setting up, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Board, of a contact group for the preparation of the Conference. Such a contact group, composed of representatives of permanent missions to UNIDO in Vienna, met during several months before the holding of each session of the Conference and prepared a report with recommendations covering most of the items on the agenda as well as organizational matters.

Regional activities

17. The eleventh meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, organized jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity and UNIDO, will be convened in Mauritius, from 31 May to 4 June 1993. It is expected that, as in the past, the Conference, which will be preceded by the Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa (also in Mauritius, from 24 to 28 May), will discuss the African position for the General Conference. The outcome of the Conference would benefit from similar activities in other regions.

Preparations by the Secretariat

18. An internal task force was established in the UNIDO Secretariat in January 1993 (UNIDO/DG/B/161 and Amend.1) to initiate preparatory work for the Conference and assist the Director-General in that respect. The Task Force has either been involved in or submitted recommendations on the issues mentioned below.

(a) Contacts with the host country - Such contacts are taking place on a regular basis and will be intensified in the coming months to establish close ties between the Government of Cameroon and the UNIDO Secretariat, thus ensuring a smooth running of the Conference.

(b) Symposium on the industrialization of the least developed countries - It has become a tradition that UNIDO organizes a gathering of least developed countries immediately before the Conference to enable this group of countries to bring their concerns to the attention of the Conference. The substantive preparations of the Symposium, which will discuss the financing of the Industrial Action Programme for the Least Developed Countries (PI/114), are currently under way.

(c) Substantive content of the Conference - Considering that the forthcoming session of the Conference is a particularly serious event which should focus on a new vision and orientation for the Organization, the attention of the Board is drawn to the need for a thorough substantive discussion on industrial development and the role of UNIDO, both before and during the session. In that context, the Board may wish to recommend (i) that the statements to be delivered at the plenary (general debate) focus on a number of important substantive items only, and (ii) that regional organizations define their positions for the Conference following the example of the African region (see para. 17 above).

(d) Documentation - As in the past, the Secretariat will prepare an executive summary of the Global Report for submission to the Conference. In addition, one document on each of the following subjects is under preparation: (i) challenges and opportunities for the industrial development of the developing countries and regions in the context of global economic changes; and (ii) challenges and alternatives for African industrial development with emphasis on problems, challenges and alternatives for the African continent.

(e) Public information - The Secretariat is examining ways and means of providing adequate and meaningful publicity for the Conference in spite of the limited resources available.

III. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

19. The Board may wish:

(a) To finalize the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the General Conference on the basis of the tentative provisional agenda contained in its decision IDB.10/Dec.19;

(b) To decide on the documentation to be prepared for the Conference on the basis of the information provided in the annex to the present note;

(c) To make recommendations to the Conference concerning the allocation of items to a main committee of the Conference (see para. 15 above) and the confinement to a limited number of important substantive subjects for the general debate at the plenary (see para. 18 (c) above);

(d) To recommend to regional intergovernmental organizations that they prepare their positions for the Conference;

(e) In the light of the experience gained in the preparation for previous sessions of the Conference, to recommend that, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Board, representatives of permanent missions in Vienna organize an informal contact group for the preparation of the fifth session of the Conference.

Annex

ANNOTATIONS TO THE ITEMS OF THE TENTATIVE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE a/

Item 1. Opening of the fifth session

In accordance with rule 34 of the rules of procedure of the General Conference Mr. Leopoldo López Cossio (Bolivia), President of the fourth session, will open the fifth session of the General Conference.

Item 2. Election of officers

At each regular session the Conference shall, with due regard for equitable geographical representation, elect, from among the representatives of Members, the following officers: a President and nine Vice-Presidents, as well as a Chairman for each Main Committee (rule 35).

(a) Election of the President

In accordance with rule 35 and appendix A of the rules of procedure, the President of the fifth session should be elected from the States in List B of Annex I to the Constitution.

(b) Election of other officers

The nine Vice-Presidents shall be elected so as to ensure the representative character of the General Committee (rule 35.3). The Vice-Presidents elected by the Conference at its fourth regular session were: Mr. A. Keramane (Algeria), Mr. R. Wotava (Austria), Mr. A.D. Berre (Gabon), Mr. M.R. Nematzadeh (Iran, Islamic Republic of), Mr. F. Salloukh (Lebanon), Mr. J.A. Porto Carrero (Peru), Mr. M. Kulcycki (Poland), Mr. V.A. Mikhailov (former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. G. Clark (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

See paragraphs 8 to 11 of the present document.

Item 4. Organization of work

The General Committee shall propose to the Conference the establishment of Main Committees and of any other sessional bodies of the Conference. It shall propose to the Conference the allocation of items between the plenary meetings, the Main Committees and any other sessional bodies (rule 42). See also paragraph 19 (c) of the present document.

Item 5. Credentials of representatives in the Conference

As stipulated in Article 8.1 of the Constitution of UNIDO, the Conference shall consist of representatives of all Members of the Organization. Membership in the Organization is defined in Article 3 of the Constitution.

In accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the credentials of representatives and the names and titles of the other persons constituting the Member's delegation shall be submitted to the Director-General if possible not less than one week before the opening of the session which the delegation will attend. Any later change in the composition of the delegation also shall be submitted to the Director-General. The credentials of representatives shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Member concerned. A Permanent Representative to the Organization does not require special credentials if his/her letter of accreditation to the Organization specifies that he/she is authorized to represent his/her Government at sessions of the Conference, it being understood that this does not preclude that Government from accrediting another person as its representative by means of special credentials.

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference on the proposal of the President. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the United Nations General Assembly at its most recent session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay to the Conference which shall decide any question arising (rule 28).

Item 6. Election to organs

(a) Industrial Development Board

In accordance with Article 9.1 of the Constitution, the Industrial Development Board shall consist of 53 Members of the Organization elected by the Conference, which shall give due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. In electing the members of the Board, the Conference shall observe the following distribution of seats: 33 members of the Board shall be elected from the States listed in Parts A and C, 15 from the States listed in Part B, and 5 from the States listed in Part D of Annex I to the Constitution.

In accordance with Article 9.2 of the Constitution, "members of the Board shall hold office from the close of the regular session of the Conference at which they were elected until the close of the regular session of the Conference four years thereafter ... Members of the Board may be re-elected."

At present, the Board is composed of the following States: Austria*, Belarus**, Belgium**,

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a/ As contained in Board decision IDB.10/Dec.19.

* Term of office expires at the close of the fifth regular session of the General Conference in 1993.

** Term of office expires at the close of the sixth regular session of the General Conference in 1995.

Bolivia**, Brazil**, Cameroon**, Chile**, China**, Costa Rica*, Cuba*, Egypt*, Ethiopia**, Finland*, France**, Germany**, Ghana**, Greece*, Guinea**, Hungary*, India*, Indonesia*, Iran, Islamic Republic of*, Iraq*, Italy**, Japan**, Kuwait**, Mexico*, Morocco*, Netherlands*, Nigeria*, Norway**, Pakistan**, Peru*, Republic of Korea**, Romania**, Russian Federation*, Saudi Arabia*, Senegal*, Slovakia**, Spain*, Sudan*, Switzerland*, Syrian Arab Republic*, Thailand**, Trinidad and Tobago*, Tunisia**, Turkey*, Uganda*, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, United States of America**, Venezuela**, Zaire*, Zimbabwe**.

(b) Programme and Budget Committee

In accordance with Article 10.1 of the Constitution, the Programme and Budget Committee shall consist of 27 Members of the Organization elected by the Conference, which shall give due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. In electing the members of the Committee, the Conference shall observe the following distribution of seats: 15 members of the Committee shall be elected from the States listed in Parts A and C, 9 from the States listed in Part B, and 3 from the States listed in Part D of Annex I to the Constitution.

In accordance with Article 10.2, "members of the Committee shall hold office from the close of the regular session of the Conference at which they were elected until the close of the regular session of the Conference two years thereafter. Members of the Committee may be re-elected."

At its fourth session, the Conference elected the following States to hold office until the close of the fifth regular session of the Conference in December 1993: Algeria, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia. b/

Other stipulations concerning the election of the members of the Industrial Development Board and the Programme and Budget Committee are contained in rule 102 of the rules of procedure of the General Conference.

Item 7. Annual reports of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization for 1991 and 1992

In accordance with rule 13.1 (b), the provisional agenda for each regular session of the Conference shall include the annual reports of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization. The Conference will have before it the annual reports of UNIDO for 1991 and 1992 (IDB.9/10 and Corr.1; IDB.11/10), which were submitted to the Board at its ninth and eleventh sessions, together with any recommendations made by the Board on the subject.

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b/ Concerning Yugoslavia, see resolution GC/S.1/Res.1 adopted by the General Conference at its first special session.

Item 8. Priority areas in the medium-term plan, 1992-1997

(a) Human resource development

The Conference in its resolution GC.4/Res.15 requested the Director-General to take a number of actions aimed at enhancing the human resource development activities of UNIDO, and to report on their implementation to the Board at its tenth session. The Board, in turn, decided to give UNIDO human resource development activities further consideration at its eleventh session, taking also into account the results of the ongoing in-depth evaluation of the subject, with a view to agreeing on substantive instructions for the UNIDO Secretariat on the matter.

The Conference will have before it any recommendations on the subject emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(b) Development and transfer of technology

The Conference at its fourth session adopted resolution GC.4/Res.13 in which it requested the Director-General: to undertake a number of actions aimed at promoting and facilitating the development and transfer of technology for developing countries; to continue to implement and enhance the programme contained in document IDB.3/26; and to report to the Conference at its fifth session through the Board at its eleventh session on the implementation of the resolution.

The Conference will have before it the latest progress report of the Director-General (IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. XIV) together with any recommendations on the subject emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(c) Industrial rehabilitation

In its decision IDB.9/Dec.2, the Board requested the Director-General to submit to the policy-making organs of UNIDO, for their consideration, the substantive programme on industrial rehabilitation, in order to complete the programming exercise of the medium-term plan, 1992-1997, on its five priority areas no later than at the eleventh session of the Board.

The Conference will have before it the UNIDO programme on industrial rehabilitation submitted by the Director-General (IDB.11/20-GC.5/12) together with any recommendations on the subject emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(d) Small- and medium-scale industries

In its decision IDB.9/Dec.2, the Board requested the Director-General to submit to the policy-making organs of UNIDO, for their consideration, the substantive programme on small- and medium-scale industries, in order to complete the programming exercise of the medium-term plan, 1992-1997, on its five priority areas no later than at the eleventh session of the Board.

The Conference will have before it the UNIDO programme on small- and medium-scale industries submitted by the Director-General (IDB.11/14-GC.5/11) together with any recommendations on the subject emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(e) Environment, energy and sustainable industrial development, including follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

At its fourth session, the Conference in resolution GC.4/Res.18, inter alia, invited the Director-General to submit to the Board at its tenth session an update of the UNIDO environment programme, taking into consideration the recommendations and guidelines of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the views expressed by the General Conference of UNIDO at its fourth session, as well as the results and recommendations of the UNIDO Conference on Ecologically Sustainable Industrial Development.

In its decision IDB.10/Dec.13, the Board took note of the report of the Director-General containing an updated UNIDO environment programme (IDB.10/17) and requested the Director-General to again update that programme in the light of further developments related to Agenda 21, and to report on UNIDO activities on sustainable development and its implementation of Agenda 21 to the Board and subsequently to the Conference at its fifth session.

Concerning energy, in its decision IDB.10/Dec.2 the Board requested the Director-General to undertake a number of actions.

The Conference will have before it the latest progress reports of the Director-General on the above subjects (IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. I and XII) together with any relevant recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

Item 9. Common elements in the medium-term plan, 1992-1997

(a) Mobilization of financial resources for industrial development

At its fourth session, the Conference in resolution GC.4/Res.21 addressed a number of requests to the Director-General aimed at pursuing and reinforcing his activities concerning the mandate of resolution GC.2/Res.10 including the presentation to the Board at its tenth session of a progress report on the implementation of the actions called for by the Conference. At its tenth session, the Board adopted decision IDB.10/Dec.15 in which it took note of the progress report of the Director-General (IDB.10/20-GC.5/6) and requested him to adopt a number of measures and to present to the Conference at its fifth session a detailed progress report on their implementation.

The Conference will have before it an updating of the progress report contained in document IDB.10/20-GC.5/6.

(i) Industrial investment promotion

In its resolution GC.4/Res.17, the Conference requested a number of actions from the Director-General related to industrial investment promotion as well as the submission of a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Conference at its fifth session through the Board at its eleventh session.

The Conference will have before it the latest progress report of the Director-General (IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. XV) together with any recommendations on the subject emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(ii) Industrial Development Fund

In its decision GC.4/Dec.21, paragraph (e), the Conference encouraged the Director-General to pursue the development of the programme approach described in document GC.4/28 in order to enhance the impact of UNIDO assistance and requested the Secretariat to promote selected programmes following the medium-term plan priority areas, while urging Member States to provide adequate financial resources for the development and implementation of such programmes. In that same decision (para. (f)), the Conference encouraged the Director-General to continue utilizing Industrial Development Fund resources as a means for the mobilization of larger financial flows, both for technical cooperation and investment, and recommended the improvement of investment-related activities.

Information on the activities of the Fund is included in the annual reports of UNIDO for 1991 and 1992 (IDB.9/10 and Corr.1; IDB.11/10). Decisions of the Board concerning the programmes for 1992 and 1993 and the proposed programming thrust for 1993, 1994 and 1995 will be contained in the reports of the Board.

Following the precedent established in previous sessions of the Conference, in order to save time and money, the pledges to the Fund in 1993 will be made in writing, and the results announced at the end of the fifth session of the Conference.

(iii) Special trust funds c/

In its resolution GC.4/Res.28, while approving the guidelines for the development, appraisal, approval and implementation of special trust fund projects (GC.4/36), the General Conference, inter alia, requested the Director-General to prepare some additions to them (see para. 2 of the resolution) for submission to the Board at its tenth session. These additions were submitted in document IDB.10/15 and further revised in document IDB.11/19. On the basis of the latter document, the Conference may have before it recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session concerning additions to the guidelines for special trust fund projects.

(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

The Conference in its resolution GC.4/Res.11 approved the proposed framework for the UNIDO-wide ECDC/TCDC programme contained in paragraph 12 of document GC.4/7 and addressed a number of requests to the Director-General, including the presentation of a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Conference at its fifth session.

The Conference will have before it the latest progress report on the subject (IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. X) together with any recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

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c/ Additional sub-item, included in view of possible recommendations to the Conference by the Board at its eleventh session.

(c) Integration of women in industrial development

The Conference at its fourth session adopted resolution GC.4/Res.12 in which it urged the further implementation of the UNIDO programme for the integration of women in industrial development, 1990-1995. In that context the Conference requested the Director-General to undertake a number of measures and to report on the progress of the implementation of the resolution to the Conference at its fifth session through the Board.

The Conference will have before it the latest progress report on the subject (IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. XI) together with any recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

Item 10. The regional dimension

(a) Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

The Conference at its fourth session, in resolution GC.4/Res.8, decided to adopt the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) and requested the Director-General to take a number of measures related to the implementation of the programme. It also requested the Director-General, in cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to undertake follow-up actions for promoting national, subregional and regional activities in support of the programme and jointly submit a report on its implementation to the Conference at its fifth session through the Board.

The Conference will have before it the latest progress report of the Director-General (IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. III) and the joint UNIDO/ECA/OAU report on the implementation of the programme for the Second IDDA together with any recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session. Also of relevance to this item is the document referred to in paragraph 18 (d)(ii) of the present report.

(b) Special Programme for Industrial Development in the Arab Countries

At its fourth session the Conference in resolution GC.4/Res.5 listed the priorities for the activities of the Programme and addressed a number of requests to the Director-General including the submission of a report on the implementation of that resolution to the Conference at its fifth session through the Board at its tenth session. The implementation of the Programme is also on the agenda of the eleventh session of the Board.

The Conference will have before it the latest progress reports of the Director-General (IDB.10/12-GC.5/5 and IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. VI) together with any recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(c) Special Programme for the Industrial Development of Asia and the Pacific

At its fourth session, the Conference took note appreciatively of the report on the implementation of the Programme and requested the Director-General to take a number of actions in that respect (decision GC.4/Dec.12). Progress reports on the subject have been submitted to the Board at its ninth and eleventh sessions.

The Conference will have before it the latest progress report of the Director-General on the subject (IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. IV) together with any recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(d) Regional Cooperation Programme for the Industrial Recovery of Latin America and the Caribbean

At its fourth session, the Conference (resolution GC.4/Res.6), while appreciating the efforts of the Secretariat in launching the Regional Programme, requested the Director-General to undertake a number of measures and to submit a detailed report on their implementation to the Board at its tenth session. The subject is included in the provisional agenda of the eleventh session of the Board.

The Conference will have before it the latest progress report of the Director-General (IDB.10/18; IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. V) together with any recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(e) Industrialization of the least developed countries

The Conference at its fourth session adopted two resolutions related to the least developed countries. In resolution GC.4/Res.10, the Conference adopted the industrial action programme for the least developed countries (PI/114). In resolution GC.4/Res.9, the Conference called upon the Director-General to continue to accord highest priority to the least developed countries in programmes of the Organization in order to assist in the implementation of the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and, within that context to develop and strengthen key priority sectors in the medium-term plan of UNIDO. The Director-General was also requested to report on the implementation of that resolution to the Conference at its fifth session.

The Conference will have before it the latest progress report of the Director-General (IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. VII) together with any recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(f) Technical assistance to the Palestinian people

In its resolution GC.4/Res.7, the Conference requested the Director-General to increase UNIDO assistance to the Palestinian people in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and to report to the Conference at its fifth session. The subject will also be reviewed by the Board at its eleventh session.

The Conference will have before it the latest progress report of the Director-General (IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. VIII) together with any recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

Item 11. Policy directives

(a) Policy forums

(i) Reports of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its fourth and fifth special sessions and its ninth, tenth and eleventh regular sessions

In accordance with Article 9.4 (c) of the Constitution, the Board shall report to the Conference at each regular session on the activities of the Board.

Since the fourth session of the Conference, and by the time the Conference meets for its fifth session, the Board will have held its fourth and fifth special sessions on 23 November 1991 and 22 January 1993 respectively, its ninth session from 8 to 22 May 1992, its tenth session from 2 to 6 November 1992 and its eleventh session from 28 June to 2 July 1993. The reports of these sessions of the Board will be submitted in documents GC.5/1, GC.5/2, GC.5/3, GC.5/4 and GC.5/8.

(ii) System of Consultations

In its resolution GC.4/Res.16 on the evaluation activities of UNIDO, the Conference requested the Director-General: to ensure the full implementation of in-depth evaluation recommendations within two years of the completion of an evaluation, and to report on the actions taken thereon; to present, in the framework of in-depth evaluations, UNIDO's action to ensure that its activities have an effective impact on the industrial development of developing countries; and to assess the implementation and impact of the recommendations of the evaluation on the System of Consultations and report on those assessments to the Conference at its fifth session through the Board at its ninth session. Subsequently, the Board in its decision IDB.9/Dec.9 requested the Director-General to undertake a number of additional measures to enhance the System of Consultations and to report on action taken on the decision to the fifth session of the Conference.

The Conference will have before it the latest progress report of the Director-General (IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. XIII) together with any recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(b) Studies and research

(i) New concepts and approaches for cooperation in industrial development in conformity with Article 2 (c) of the Constitution

In its resolution GC.4/Res.19 the Conference took note with appreciation of the new concepts and approaches for cooperation in respect to industrial development contained in paragraphs 38 to 43 of the progress report of the Director-General on the subject (GC.4/17), and emphasized the aspects requiring particular attention in formulating those new concepts and approaches for industrial cooperation. The Conference also directed the Board to review the application of the approved new concepts and approaches, through a report of the Director-General and, in the light of its assessments, to consider any further new ones which may be necessary for submission to the Conference at its fifth session.

The Conference will have before it the recommendations on the subject emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(ii) Evaluation of the objectives and functions of UNIDO in view of recent changes and developments in the world

In its decisions IDB.6/Dec.23 and IDB.8/Dec.34, the Board raised a number of concerns related to the subject of this item, and referred them to the Conference at its fourth session. On that occasion the Conference considered a report by the Director-General (GC.4/18) and adopted resolution GC.4/Res.20. The resolution requested the Director-General, inter alia, to ensure that the activities of UNIDO are consistent with the efforts of developing countries to ensure their active participation in the world economy, and to report on the concrete steps he had taken in that regard, through the Board, to the Conference at its fifth session. The report of the Director-General is contained in document IDB.10/21-GC.5/7. The debate that took place at the tenth session of the Board on the subject is reflected in summary record IDB.10/SR.6, paragraphs 48 to 120.

The following documents will also be of relevance to the subject: the Executive Summary of the Global Report; the document mentioned in paragraph 18 (d)(i) of the present report; and the reports of the sixth and seventh sessions of the Special Advisory Group to the Director-General of UNIDO on specific activities of the Organization. The Conference may also have before it recommendations emanating from the eleventh session of the Board on the relative priorities of the medium-term plan, 1994-1999.

(iii) The external debt and industrial development

At its fourth session, the Conference in resolution GC.4/Res.22 requested the Director-General to take a number of actions aimed at contributing to the alleviation of the debt burden of the developing countries, and report on their implementation to the Conference at its fifth session through the Board at its tenth session. The progress report of the Director-General, which includes reporting on UNIDO activities aimed at the mobilization of financial resources for industrial development (see item 9 (a) above) is contained in document IDB.10/20-GC.5/6.

The Board at its tenth session, in its decision IDB.10/Dec.16, urged the Director-General to take a number of steps aimed at the alleviation of the external debt of the developing countries and to present to the Conference at its fifth session a progress report on their implementation.

The Conference will have before it an updating of the progress report contained in document IDB.10/20-GC.5/6.

(c) Technical cooperation activities of UNIDO (including contribution to international efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident)

At its fourth session, the Conference in resolution GC.4/Res.3 and decision GC.4/Dec.11, requested the Director-General to take a number of

actions related to technical cooperation and to report on their implementation to the Conference at its fifth session, through the Board at its ninth session. The subject will also be reviewed by the Board at its eleventh session. The Conference will have before it the latest progress report of the Director-General (IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. II) together with any recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

In its resolution GC.4/Res.1 the Conference requested the Director-General to continue, within the mandate of UNIDO, to take appropriate measures on the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 45/190 on international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, in cooperation with the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation for Chernobyl. It also requested the Director-General to submit a report on the subject to the General Conference at its fifth session. The Board will review the matter at its eleventh session. The Conference will have before it the report of the Director-General on the subject (IDB.11/8-GC.5/9) together with any recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(d) The coordinating role of UNIDO

Article 2 (b) of the Constitution stipulates that, in fulfilment of its objectives, the Organization shall, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, initiate, coordinate and follow up the activities of the United Nations system with a view to enabling the Organization to play the central coordinating role in the field of industrial development. The Conference may wish to discuss that role of UNIDO in the light of United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/153 on industrial development cooperation. The documents referred to under item 11 (b)(ii) above will be of relevance to the subject.

Item 12. Policy management

(a) Evaluation activities of UNIDO

In its resolution GC.4/Res.16 the Conference requested the Director-General to undertake a number of actions related to the evaluation activities of UNIDO, and to report on their implementation at its fifth session, in particular, in relation to the arrangements made for the future financing of evaluation activities, including the strengthening of the Evaluation Staff of the Organization, and steps initiated for the undertaking of the in-depth evaluation on special trust fund programmes. The Board will also review the evaluation of UNIDO programmes and activities at its eleventh session.

In addition to the information provided in document IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chapter XVI, the Conference will have before it a report by the Director-General on the subject together with any recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(b) Organizational and staff structure

In its decision GC.4/Dec.22, the Conference requested the Board to pursue the examination of the question of the organizational and staff structure of UNIDO with a view to reaching a decision that could be adopted by the Conference at its fifth session.

The Conference will have before it the recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session. Any reporting to the Conference will be subject to the recommendations of the Board.

Item 13. Programme support

(a) Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations

In accordance with rule 13, the provisional agenda for each regular session of the Conference shall include reports from specialized and related agencies and from other intergovernmental organizations with which UNIDO has concluded a relationship agreement purusant to Article 19.1 (a) of the Constitution, and items proposed by them, where the agreement establishing the relationship with the organization concerned so provides.

Furthermore, in the guidelines for the relationship of UNIDO with intergovernmental, governmental, non-governmental and other organizations adopted by the General Conference at its first session (decision GC.1/Dec.41, annex), it is stipulated that the Director-General shall report to the Conference at each regular session on any agreements with intergovernmental and governmental organizations entered into by him on behalf of the Organization since the preceding regular session as well as on any consultative relations established with non-governmental organizations in the same period.

The Conference will have before it the decisions adopted by the Board on the subject at its ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions and a note by the Director-General on developments that have taken place since the fourth session of the Conference.

(b) Headquarters agreement between UNIDO and the Republic of Austria

In accordance with Article 20.2 of the Constitution, "the Organization shall conclude a headquarters agreement with the Host Government". The Conference will be informed of the latest developments in this respect.

(c) Personnel matters

(i) United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

The Conference will have before it a recommendation of the Board concerning candidates for election to the Staff Pension Committee for the years 1992 and 1993.

(ii) Women in the Secretariat

In its decision GC.4/Dec.24, the Conference urged the Director-General to continue the efforts towards recruiting women in posts subject to geographical distribution and in particular to accord priority to the increased representation of women at the P-5 and above levels within the overall targets set for 1993 and 1995. The Director-General was also requested to submit a progress report on the subject to the Conference

at its fifth session through the Board at its eleventh session.

The Conference will have before it the latest progress report by the Director-General (IDB.11/11-GC.5/10, chap. XVII) together with any recommendations on the subject emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(d) Financial matters

The reports of the Board mentioned under item 11 (a)(i) above will contain recommendations to the Conference concerning sub-items (i) to (v) below.

(i) Scale of assessments of Member States

In accordance with rule 13.1 (k), the provisional agenda for each regular session of the Conference shall include recommendations of the Board for the establishment of the scale of assessments. Article 15 of the Constitution stipulates that regular budget expenditures shall be borne by the Members, as apportioned in accordance with a scale of assessments established by the Conference by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, upon the recommendation of the Board, that the scale of assessments shall be based to the extent possible on the scale most recently employed by the United Nations and that no Member shall be assessed more than 25 per cent of the regular budget of the Organization.

The Conference will have before it the recommendations of the Board based on PBC conclusion 93/5 concerning the scale of assessments for 1994-1995.

Concerning the split-currency system of assessment, the Conference in its resolution GC.4/Res.27, decided that the appropriation approved for the biennium 1992-1993 be assessed in the proportions of 11 per cent in United States dollars of the appropriation expressed at US$ 1 = AS 12.90 and the balance in Austrian schillings. At the same time, the Conference decided to suspend for 1992-1993 the second sentence of financial regulation 5.1 (d) (i.e. "The initial assessment in Austrian schillings shall be established at the United Nations accounting rate of exchange in effect at the time the regular budget is adopted by the Conference.") and requested the Director-General in consultation with the External Auditor to review the appropriateness of that sentence and to report thereon through the PBC and the Board to the Conference at its fifth session.

The conclusions of the Secretariat, elaborated in consultation with the External Auditor are contained in its report to the PBC on the subject (PBC.8/11). Both the PBC and the Board took note of the Secretariat's report.

(ii) Financial situation of UNIDO

The Conference will have a report by the Director-General showing the financial situation of UNIDO as of 31 October 1993 (to be updated immediately before the opening of the session). The report will contain a cash flow analysis for 1993 including the status of assessed contributions to the regular budget and the status of advances to the Working Capital Fund.

The Conference may also have recommendations on the subject emanating from the Board at its eleventh session.

(iii) Financial regulations

In addition to the question of the appropriateness of the second sentence of financial regulation 5.1 (d) raised in resolution GC.4/Res.27 (see item 13 (d)(i) above), the Conference, in its resolution GC.4/Res.28 related to guidelines for special trust fund projects, requested the Director-General to present a proposal to the Board at its tenth session, through the PBC, on the application of financial rule 106.21 governing reimbursement for programme support and administrative services, taking into account the cost measurement study undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Such a proposal was presented to the PBC and the Board (IDB.10/8, paras. 16-18). Both the PBC and the Board took note of that proposal.

Concerning financial regulation 4.1, the Conference, in its resolution GC.4/Res.23, while deciding to adopt the additional proposals in Board decision IDB.7/Dec.13, maintained the proposed paragraphs (d) and (e) in square brackets and requested the External Auditor to submit a report to the PBC at its eighth session on his views and comments on those paragraphs. It also requested the PBC to reconsider paragraphs (d) and (e) and report to the Conference at its fifth session through the Board at its tenth session.

The recommendation of the Board to the Conference on the subject is contained in decision IDB.10/Dec.10.

(iv) Working Capital Fund

In accordance with financial regulation 5.4, upon recommendation of the PBC and subsequently the Board, the Conference shall determine the amount and purposes of the Working Capital Fund. Financial regulation 5.5 (d) stipulates that advances to the Working Capital Fund shall be assessed and paid in United States dollars.

At its fourth session, the Conference in decision GC.4/Dec.16 decided that for the 1992-1993 beinnium the level of the Working Capital Fund should be $9 million and the authorized purposes of the Fund should remain the same as for the previous bienniums (see decision GC.2/Dec.27).

The Conference will have before it the status of advances to the Working Capital Fund as of 31 October 1993 (to be updated immediately before the session) as well as the recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session based on PBC conclusion 93/6 concerning the level and purposes of the Working Capital Fund for the biennium 1994-1995.

(v) Appointment of External Auditor

In accordance with financial regulation 11.1, an External Auditor, who shall be Auditor-General (or an officer exercising an equivalent function) of a Member State, shall be appointed in the manner and for the period decided by the Conference. By decision GC.1/Dec.34, the Conference appointed the Senior President of the Audit Office of Belgium as the External Auditor

for UNIDO for a period of two years beginining on 1 July 1986, and subsequently by decisions GC.2/Dec.28, GC.3/Dec.22 and GC.4/Dec.17, it extended that appointment until 30 June 1994.

The Conference will have before it the recommendations of the Board on the question of the appointment of an External Auditor for the period 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1996.

(e) Computerization programme

In its decision GC.4/Dec.18, the Conference at its fourth session requested the Director-General, with a view to ensuring the transparency of all operations concerning the electronic data-processing (EDP) programme and avoiding a repetition of past difficulties, to report to the subsequent sessions of the policy-making organs on the programme and cost of implementing the consultants' recommendations and the recommendations of the External Auditor, as contained in documents GC.4/CRP.1 and GC.4/50, especially those concerning the disaster recovery plan, the organizational and functional changes and the internal control and evaluation of automation projects.

Accordingly, the Conference will have a report by the Director-General on the subject.

Item 14. Medium-term plan, 1994-1999

In accordance with Conference decision GC.2/Dec.23, the Director-General submitted to the Board in the first year of the fiscal period 1992-1993, through the PBC, a draft medium-term plan for the six years 1994-1999.

The Board at its tenth session in its decision IDB.10/Dec.7 took note of the draft medium-term plan, 1994-1999 as contained in documents IDB.10/15 and Add.1. At the same time, in its decision IDB.10/Dec.8, it decided to review at its eleventh session the relative priorities within the medium-term plan activities, 1994-1999, bearing in mind the financial and technical capacity of UNIDO (see also item 11 (b)(ii) above).

The Conference will have before it the recommendations emanating from the Board at its eleventh session. Any reporting to the Conference will be subject to such recommendations.

Item 15. Programme and budgets, 1994-1995

In accordance with Article 14.4 of the Constitution, the Conference shall consider and approve the programme of work and the corresponding regular budget and operational budget submitted to it by the Board, by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting.

The Conference will have before it the recommendations of the Board related to the programme and budgets, 1994-1995.

Item 16. Date and place of the sixth session

Article 8.2 (a) of the Constitution stipulates that the Conference shall hold a regular session every two years, unless it decides otherwise. In the proposals of the Director-General for the programme and budgets for 1994-1995, provisions have been made for the holding of the sixth session of the General Conference for a duration of five working days.

Item 17. Closure of the fifth session